



The Small College

The Small College Talks Back, An Intimate Appraisal. By William W. Hall, Jr. New York, Richard R. Smith, 1951. 214p. \$3.00.

President Hall's avowed purpose is "to throw a little light on an important and traditional segment of higher education in America by use of the case method. From the events in the life of one college during the administration of a single president may be drawn lessons of much wider applicability. . . ." This book, then, attempts to be nothing more nor less than a highly personal account of the conduct of the president's office at the College of Idaho from 1939 to 1948. Problems are frankly stated and reasoned. The answers are not all here, for no college president has all the answers. President Hall offers the reading public the opportunity to accompany him in the conduct of his responsibilities and to draw its own conclusions on how these were discharged. This is done with frankness, vigor and literary ability. Educator and layman alike will have difficulty in putting this volume down, once begun. What a refreshing change from most professional literature!

The problems of most colleges and many universities are all here. Faculty salaries were, as in other places, still at a mid-thirties low, and a certain amount of stagnation had set in. How could one attract scholarly young men with real teaching ability to this small institution in the sagebrush? The endowment was insignificant and the draft soon cut deeply into enrolment. How, to quote a chapter heading, make "Two and Two Make Six"?

The college is situated in an emerging area, coming out from the raw and rugged conditions of its pioneering past and into a settling existence with new industries and a culture and personality all its own. Into this the college must fit. The college must blaze its own path to meet the needs of its area and perform a function different from the state university, its great competitor. How vocational education was finally ruled out and the liberal arts firmly established as policy to the satisfaction of trustees and alumni is an interesting story with lessons for all educators.

Much of the work of a college president is, of course, in raising funds and in public relations. Here the characters are drawn sharp and clear, to the discomfort of some and glory of others. The trustees, individually and collectively, are not excepted. The member whose chief contribution to the college is termed "opening the meeting with prayer and seconding the motions," exists perhaps on other boards but does not expect such prominent recognition.

A prominent and distressing lack is the scant attention given to the college library.

Librarians of liberal arts colleges will find this volume highly useful for its light on the problems faced in the president's office. They will have difficulty in reading the book because, judging from personal experience, their wives and secretaries will refuse to give it up. It belongs, for all its deceptive spontaneity and charm, in any collection on higher education. Would that some librarian had the wit and time to produce a similar book on his own work.—*Arthur T. Hamlin, Association of College and Reference Libraries.*

Bibliography in an Age of Science

Bibliography in an Age of Science. By Louis N. Ridenour, Ralph R. Shaw and Albert G. Hill. Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1951. 90p. \$2.50.

Librarians reading these second Windsor lectures will have the eerie sensation of moving along the thin knife edge of the barely known into the realm of science fiction—science fiction set in the library. Librarian

readers will be uneasy unless they have prepared themselves by acquiring a bowing acquaintance with Berkeley's *Giant Brains* and Wiener's *Cybernetics*. The statements made and implications drawn by Dean Ridenour, a physicist and radar expert, and by Professor Hill, another physicist and one-time Bell telephone engineer, out-fantasy Frederick Keppel's "Looking Forward, A